

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2460, WIRELESS TELEPHONE PROTECTION ACT

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-421) on the resolution (H. Res. 368) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2460) to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to scanning receivers and similar devices, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 369) and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 369

Resolved, That the following named Members be, and that they are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

Committee on Small Business: Ms. Velazquez to rank directly above Mr. Sisisky.

Committee on Banking and Financial Services: That the powers and duties conferred upon the ranking minority members by House rules shall be exercised by the next senior member until otherwise ordered by the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JERRY CHOUINARD, A TRUE PUBLIC SERVANT

(Mr. LIVINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, this week marks the end of 35 years of public service, 32 years of which were with the House Committee on Appropriations for Jerry Chouinard. Jerry has decided to retire from the government, and he plans to split his time between consulting and traveling.

He was born in Nashua, New Hampshire, on June 19, 1943, where he graduated from the public schools, and in 1961 he enlisted in the United States Army and was stationed in Ethiopia prior to his honorable discharge July 1963. Shortly afterward he moved to Washington, D.C., and began a career in the Federal Government in the Washington, D.C. field office of the United States Secret Service. He was detailed to the House Committee on Appropriations in April 1966 where he quickly received a staff appointment and began service that lasted for 32 years. Over this time period he has had various administrative positions for the committee culminating with the

position of the committee's administrative officer.

In his various capacities, he has worked closely with the committee members' offices, helped organize conferences with the Senate, coordinated activities with the various 13 subcommittees, organized full meetings and just kept the committee on an even keel. One testimony to his talent was his ability to know what needed to be done before he even thought of it. In a sense he was our Radar O'Reilly.

As Jerry enters retirement we wish him well as he will now be able to see more of his family and his two daughters, Joanna and Alison, and his one grandchild, soon to be a second. We wish him good health and extend a permanent invitation to him to come through our door to stop by and see his friends. We shall always be grateful for his untiring work and his unwavering loyalty to the committee and the institution of the House of Representatives and his service to the country. Good luck, my friend.

□ 1545

CONTINUATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY RELATING TO CUBA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 105-218)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency declared with respect to the Government of Cuba's destruction of two unarmed U.S.-registered civilian aircraft in international airspace north of Cuba on February 24, 1996, is to continue in effect beyond March 1, 1998, to the *Federal Register* for publication.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 25, 1998.

REPORT ON LOAN GUARANTEES TO ISRAEL PROGRAM—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations.

To the Congress of the United States:

The attached report to the Congress on the Loan Guarantees to Israel Program was completed on December 31, 1997. Since then there have been several key, positive economic developments in Israel that I wanted to communicate to the Congress.

The Israeli Knesset passed its 1998 budget on January 5. The final budget adhered to the deficit target of 2.4 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) set by the Israeli Cabinet in August 1997, and established a spending target of 46.3 percent of GDP (down from 47.3 percent in 1997), without resorting to additional taxes. Furthermore, due partially to the mid-year spending cuts discussed in the report, the Government of Israel overperformed the 1997 deficit target of 2.8 percent of GDP by a significant margin; the 1997 budget deficit came in at 2.4 percent of GDP. These events demonstrate the commitment of the Israeli government to fiscal consolidation and reform.

Second, the Israeli consumer price index (CPI) for 1997 rose by only 7 percent, at the bottom of the 7-10 percent 1997 target range and a 28-year low. This indicates that the battle being waged by the Bank of Israel and the Israeli government against persistent inflation is succeeding. The Israeli Ministry of Finance is reportedly considering lowering the 1998 inflation target (currently set at 7-10 percent) in order to consolidate the strong inflation performance registered in 1997.

This information will be included in the 1998 report to the Congress on the Loan Guarantees to Israel Program.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 24, 1998.

INCENTIVE FOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and include extraneous material.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, today I rise to announce that I will be introducing a bill that will offer students significant motivation to pursue academic excellence during their high school years. The bill is entitled the Incentive for Achievement through Pell Grants Act.

I am a strong supporter of the Pell grant program and would like to take this moment to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING), the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY), the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PORTER), and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) for their leadership on Pell grants.

My bill would double the Pell grant award for the first 2 years of college for those Pell eligible students who, against all the odds, graduate in the top 10 percent of their high school class. Over 84,000 students can benefit from this achievement award.